Performance of deemed universities

245. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government Committee has found out that most of the deemed universities in the country are not performing according to the standards expected;

(b) if so, the names of such universities identified and the nature of activities in which they have been found lacking; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Review Committee constituted by the Central Government to review the functioning of the Institutions declared as 'Deemed to be Universities has submitted its report, which is under active consideration in the Ministry.

Sick MSME in West Bengal

246. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 11,500 micro, small and medium units are sick in the State of West Bengal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than 26,000 micro, small and medium enterprises in West Bengal are closed;

(c) if so, the number of people who have become unemployed and the number of families affected due to (a) and (b) above; and

(d) the manner in which his Ministry is planning to address this problem and help the above units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from the scheduled commercial banks, there were 21,413 sick micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in the State of West Bengal at the end of March 2009. Information in respect of medium enterprises is not being collated by the RBI. As per the quick results of Fourth All India Census of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), out of 60,474 registered MSMEs in West Bengal as on 31st March 2007, the number of MSMEs found closed were reported to be 8,881. Information in respect of people who have become unemployed and the number of families affected due to sickness/closure of MSMEs is not maintained centrally.

(d) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises does not provide any direct financial assistance for rehabilitation of sick micro and small enterprises (MSEs). However, financial assistance, by way of debt restructuring, including fresh loans, for the rehabilitation of sick MSE is provided by the primary lending institutions (PLIs), including commercial banks, which provide credit to the MSEs. For this purpose, the RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks in January 2002 on detection of sickness in MSE at an early stage and taking remedial measures and for rehabilitation of

sick MSEs identified as potentially viable. RBI has also issued guidelines on 8th September 2005, based on the "Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)" announced by the Central Government on 10th August 2005. These guidelines relate, *inter alia*, to viability criteria, prudential norms for restructured accounts, provision of additional finance and time frame for working out the restructuring package and its implementation. Further, based on the recommendations of the Working Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. K.C. Chakrabarty, the then Chairman and Managing Director, Punjab National Bank, the RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks on May 4, 2009 to consider, for speedy implementation, the recommendations made with regard to timely and adequate flow of credit to'the MSE sector. The Banks have also been advised to apply the RBI's guidelines on debt restructuring optimally and in letter and spirit and put in place their own non-discretionary one-time settlement (OTS) policy for this sector.

Strengthening of rail security

247. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplates to strengthen railway network in the wake of recent incident of blockage of Rajdhani Express by Maoists;

(b) if so, the details of the measures being considered necessary for safety of passengers;

(c) whether Government has also identified sensitive and important railway stations in the naxal affected States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) According to Entry No.2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and Village Police) is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigations and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. Therefore, the concerned State Governments have been requested to take effective steps to prevent such incidents for smooth functioning of Railways. However, following measures have been taken by the Railways to assist the State Government:-

1. The trains are being escorted by armed parties of Railway Protection Force (RPF)/ Government Railway Police (GRP).

2. Pilot engines are being run before vulnerable trains as per the advise of Police authorities;

3. Regular co-ordination meetings are being conducted to optimize the efforts of Police, Central Para Military Forces and RPF;

4. All possible assistance in mobilizing Forces at any remote stations is provided to State Government Administration.

(c) and (d) Security of sensitive areas and Railway stations situated in such areas is coordinated and monitored with the respective State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs.